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file U-2

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED] IDEALIST
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[REDACTED]
6 May 1965

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NRO DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Field Activities, OSA
Chief, Security Staff, OSA

SUBJECT: IDEALIST Mission Plan Proliferation

REFERENCE: COMOR Minutes, dated 29 April 1965
25X1 [REDACTED]

25X1 1. I know that, together, we all share a serious concern over
25X1 the general trend of the last two years wherein mission plan infor-
25X1 mation has been necessarily passed to an ever growing circle of
25X1 people in Washington and elsewhere who have become involved in
the approval process for overhead reconnaissance missions. While
we can deplore this trend, perhaps, there is little we can do to
limit the number of people who obtain this information in the course
of making the mission go successfully. There are, however, certain
areas where I feel foreknowledge of impending missions can be more
effectively restricted.

2. I have specific reference to the COMOR Minutes for 29 April,
referenced above, as they cover, on page 6, the Operational Brief-
ing for Program B. According to the minutes, [REDACTED]
reported that: (Item 12. c.) "Mission C245C is scheduled for
30 April 1965 for Formosa Strait area between Foochow and Shanghai.
In response to a question [REDACTED] said that the northern
part of the mission was to satisfy a [REDACTED] requirement. He confirmed
that weather continued to be unfavorable for coverage of South China."
This, of course, was a mission, which at the time COMOR met, had not
been flown and, in fact, as nearly as I can reconstruct, the minutes
were in print and perhaps distributed prior to take-off time. Accord-
ing to the minutes there were some twenty-two COMOR members and
consultants present, representing the spectrum of agencies and
departments interested in the reconnaissance of denied areas. As far

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as I can tell, none of the COMOR members has any operational responsibility for the Idealist Program with, of course, the exception of [REDACTED] 25X1

3. I would, therefore, request that you instruct the Intelligence Division that in making their weekly report to COMOR, extreme care should be taken to confine the reporting to those missions which have already taken place and to avoid, where ever possible, reference to missions which have already been alerted, but have not been executed. Your comments on this matter would be welcome.

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[REDACTED]
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

cc: EXO/DDS&T

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